

Request for Economic Stimulus Funds

Concept Proposal

Submitters:

e-Health Sub-Committee (Votruba/Martinez/Ozanich)

Project Title:

HITECH--*Title XIII--(Sec. 13301, Subtitle B, Incentives for the Use of HIT, Sec. 3001)*

Establishment of HIT Technology Implementation Centers

Project Partners:

State Universities, Regional Universities, KCTCS, Independent Colleges and Universities, State e-Health Professionals, Kentucky Medical Association, Kentucky Hospital Association, RHIO's, HIT Vendors

Project Background & Purpose:

To assist health care providers to adopt, implement, and effectively use certified © technology that allows for the electronic exchange and use of health information, the Secretary, acting through the Office of the National Coordinator, shall establish a health information technology extension program to provide health information technology assistance services to be carried out through the Department of Health and Human Services.

- Currently only 1.3% of Hospital have fully functional clinical information systems
- An estimated 17% of physicians use some type of electronic health record
- This Extension Center Program will provide outreach and technical support to the healthcare industry as it implements “meaningful use” of “qualified EHR’s” as mandated by ARRA
- \$17.2B will be available to hospitals and physicians in incentive programs
- The program goal is that all Americans have access to an EHR by 2014

As a predominantly rural state with a high rate of poverty, Kentucky has an especially strong need for regional HIT extension centers to support the implementation and effective use of electronic medical records and information exchange. Kentucky has a disproportionately high level of Medicare and Medicaid patients. Rural clinics, small medical practices, and regional medical centers will need technical assistance to support the implementation and maintenance of electronic medical systems. There is a strong need for analysis, planning, technical consulting, system selection and configuration, system operation and maintenance, training, change management, and dissemination of best practices. These needs are identified in the State Action Plan and other documents. In laying the foundation for its state health information exchange network, Kentucky has already worked in collaboration with the Kentucky Medical Association to establish an HIT Tool Kit, which will be a valuable tool in establishing the HIT regional extension centers.

Project Description:

To be administered by Office of National Coordinator/HHS; the principal focus is the establishment of a statewide HIT extension program. Objectives are technical assistance/best practices dissemination, broad stakeholder participation, HIE participation, health professions training. Kentucky is well positioned to implement this program and bring improved and lower cost health care through existing higher education assets.

Project Team Leaders:

Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, KCTCS, other regional universities as appropriate

Project Budget & Amount of Economic Stimulus Funds Requested:

50% Federal Match, in-kind permissible.

Capital required to launch and Year 1 operations: \$4M to \$5M; \$3M/yr for years 2-4

Match capital \$2M to \$2.5M for Year 1; \$1.5M years 2-4